
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 3, Issue 9

September 2009

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. -Sydney J. Harris

Dear Advocates,

Congratulations on finishing up the year (according to Judicial Council, that is). We are able to report that we have achieved a **75%** rate of compliance in regard to Continuing Education requirements. We are incredibly proud of all the work that you do and understand that this additional commitment takes more time and effort on your parts. So many of you have worked diligently to get this done, some of you far exceeding the minimum 12 hours and achieving 30 hours or more! Thank you all so much for understanding the importance of this requirement and participating in the different educational opportunities throughout the year. We look forward to seeing 100% compliance next year! The Judicial Council year runs from September 1st through August 31st, so you can get to work on earning new hours as soon as you'd like...

In an effort to streamline the amount of communication you, as advocates, receive from us throughout each month, we are attaching a one page survey to this month's email that included the newsletter. **Please take the time to complete and submit it so that we may create the most helpful and interesting educational offerings for this next year.**

Speaking of Continuing Education, CASA has been provided with a grant to facilitate a very specialized training on Dr. David Arredondo's Connectedness Model on **September 15th**. This approach to developing permanency for our youth is incredibly valuable for us all. Space is limited, so please let us know if you would like more details. This training will happen off-site and begin at approximately 8:30am and last the majority of the day.

We will also be hosting an in-depth Educational Advocacy Workshop hosted by CASA's Education Specialist, Eric Paulson on Saturday, **September 19th** from 9am to 1pm at the Carmel Youth Center. Whether you hold educational rights or not, this is a wonderful opportunity to better understand the system, learn more about IEP, specific foster youth rights, etc. Please RSVP to me if you would like to attend.

We tentatively have Martha Elin Mountain reserved for a CASA training on Thursday, **September 24th** regarding the challenges of being a CASA. If you are interested in participating in this training session, please let us know.

On Tuesday, **September 29th**, we will be hosting a peer review at the CASA office from 6pm to 8pm. Please RSVP to me if you would like to attend.

We kicked off our new recruitment campaign on Tuesday, September 1st. Our 30-in-30 campaign is designed to recruit 30 new advocates in 30 days, to begin training in the beginning of October and assigned to children in November. If you know of potential advocates, please send them our way. We have lots of children on our waiting list who are ready to be assigned CASAs! We will also be holding a Wrap-Up Celebration of the campaign on Wednesday, **September 30th** at 5:30pm at Me-N-Ed's Pizzeria in Seaside. Please let us know if you would like to join in the festivities.

Our final bit of news is that we are happy to announce the creation of a new website specifically for CASA advocates! We plan to transition out of doing a large monthly newsletter and use this website as our primary mode of contact. We're still ironing out the kinks, but feel free to go explore and create your profile at www.casamonterey.net. The site will offer private messaging boards to connect advocates and enable online discussion, online registration for classes and volunteer shifts, picture sharing, etc. Please let me know if you have feedback on the site or trouble accessing it. Also, as lovely as the tool is, very few things in this world are free. We're looking for 10 sponsors to help keep this site up and running. For just \$100, you can sponsor for the year- what a great deal, right? If interested, visit the site and click on "Become a Sponsor".

As a reminder, the CASA office will be closed Monday, **Sept 7th** in observance of Labor Day. May you all enjoy a fun and restful Labor Day weekend and thank you all for all you do.

With gratitude,

Michelle Arnold
Program Manager, Monterey County

How many of us have been confused by the structure of a group home where our CASA child has been placed?

Could communication have been better between you and the staff?

Did you feel that the youth lacked a clear understanding of house expectations?

Become a group home liaison!

Our pilot program is off the ground, and we're looking for a few fabulous advocates who are up to the challenge of this exciting new role. Contact Michelle to learn more!

Advocate Avenue



We would like to wish the following advocates a very happy birthday during the month of September...

Jane Foley	9/1
Marje Perkins	9/1
Michele Chavez Diaz	9/5
Bob Carroll	9/13
Richard Allen	9/17
Barbara Hays	9/21
Art Kessler	9/21
Kathryn Pernet	9/25
David Maradei	9/27
Ken Graeber	9/28
Kathi Wojtowski	9/29

08/09 Continuing Education All-Stars!!! These Advocates reported 20+ hours last year:

Michelle Arnold
Paula Arnold
John Burdick
Edna Chinn
Betsy Collins
Christina Courcier
Esther Curtice
Anissa Ferraro
Miriam Gonzalez
Ken Graeber
Siobhan Greene
Sheri Jefferis
Alice Knapp
Kathy Manley-Coburn
David Maradei
Stacey Montoya
Al Murphy
Sandra Quintana
Kathy Ruiz
Barbara Singer
Jackie Steakley
Ruben Urzua
Juli Valdez-Moreno

Free Tickets Available...

OUTDOOR FOREST THEATER
AUG 13 - SEPT 27



Contact Michelle to get yours
TODAY!

FREE STUFF!

We have a limited amount of :
In-N-Out gift certificates
Skating Passes at Del Monte Gardens
Oliver! Tickets

We have an unlimited amount of:
Chuck E Cheese Discount Coupons
Wild Things Free Child Admission Coupons (w/ adult admission purchase)

Come to the CASA office today and pick some up!!!



Hartnell College Foster & Kinship Care Education Program Presents:



Relatives Offering Ongoing Ties & Support ROOTS

The trainings will be at Salinas Adult School on the following Saturdays:
August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 19, & 26 2009
9am-12pm

Room E2, Salinas Adult School, 20 Sherwood Place, 93906

18 hours of training offered for relative & near-kin caregivers. Each session is 3 hours long and all sessions are open ended- you can begin with session 2 and pick up session 1 later or take all 6 sessions in a series.

There is no cost to attend, but please call 755-6709

Or fax or mail registration form below

Or register online, at www.hartnell.edu/family_matters

Childcare is available only if you pre-register. Space is limited. Cancellations of childcare reservations must be received at least 48 hours before the training. Failure to cancel registration if you are not going to attend may result in a loss of childcare privileges for future trainings.

Mail:

Hartnell College
www.hartnell.edu/family_matters
411 Central Ave J10
Salinas, Ca 93901

FAX:

(831) 770-7014

ONLINE:

ROOTS

Name:

Date:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Agency:

For childcare, Name and age of Child:

Can Involvement In Extra-curricular Activities Help Prevent Juvenile Delinquency?

ScienceDaily (Mar. 23, 2008) — Parents concerned about their teens' involvement in risky and criminal behavior have traditionally involved their kids in sports, church and community activities. Do those activities really help prevent risky behaviors in youth? And do the activities affect boys and girls differently?

Previous research has shown that participating in extracurricular activities protects young men and women from risky behaviors and delinquency. This theory was confirmed in a recent study from researchers at Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice, but the results also offered a different perspective on how the same activities affect young men and women differently.

While it was previously believed that participation in sports would decrease delinquency in boys, it actually did not have a significant protective effect. However, the reverse was true for girls, whose risk for delinquent behavior was reduced significantly if they took part in sports. Other activities, such as church and after-school community activities, decreased the risk of delinquency in boys, but not for girls.

“This study set out to identify the factors that lead young men and women to fall into serious delinquency and risky behaviors,” said Sean Varano, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Northeastern. “We know that girls and boys have a number of different experiences as they mature, and it is important to understand those differences so that informed decisions can be made on how to protect them.”

The study, completed by Sean Varano, Ph.D., Amy Farrell, Ph.D., both from Northeastern, and Jeb Booth, Ph.D., formerly of Northeastern, examined the self-reported data from 1,400 teens from an upper middle class suburban neighborhood. By looking at both young men and women independently of one another, examining the social controls (parental, academic, etc.) and bonds developed inside the home, in the classroom and during extracurricular activities, it has become clear that they respond differently to certain social controls and activities.

Involvement in church and nonschool activities, for both young men and women, significantly protected them from serious delinquent behavior, which includes fighting, carrying a weapon or violence. However, it did not protect them from risky behavior, such as drinking, smoking or drunk driving.

The researchers also found that how students feel about their school environment also impact their risk of delinquent and risky behavior. Students who view their academic environment as positive are less likely to be involved in serious delinquency or risky behavior. The converse is also true – when students feel negatively about their school, they are more likely to exhibit negative behavior. “The fact that this idea was confirmed by our research shows that positive and negative school environments are important for both urban and suburban schools,” said Amy Farrell, Principal Research Scientist and Associate Director of the Institute on Race and Justice at Northeastern.

This study also indicated that a “tipping point” may exist, a point at which too much involvement in extracurricular activities could actually increase levels of risky behavior and serious delinquency. What this may suggest is that the lack of time spent with parents and family might intensify the negative peer influences that the students are exposed to.

“The data clearly shows the need for a balance in students' lives to best protect them from serious delinquency and risky behaviors,” added Varano. “With continued gender-specific research, better programs can be implemented with the goal of improving the school environment and reducing the incidence of risky behavior and delinquency for all students.”

The Crime & Delinquency article, "Social Control, Serious Delinquency, and Risky Behavior: A Gendered Analysis," written by Jeb A. Booth, Ph.D., formerly of Northeastern, Amy Farrell, Ph.D., and Sean P. Varano, Ph.D., both currently at Northeastern University.